

Let me welcome the Subcommittee to our markup of the fiscal year 2008 Transportation and Housing

I would like to thank all of the Subcommittee Members for their input and work on this bill. I especially
This is a bipartisan and fiscally responsible bill. Indeed, this bill should not be partisan because there is

Due to current budgetary constraints the Subcommittee was forced to either flat fund or cut numerous
The bill provides \$50.7 billion in discretionary funding for transportation and housing programs and is v

With regard to HUD, a strong consensus exists that there is a great unmet need for affordable housing
Yet, each year, the President's HUD budget arrives at the Committee with severe cuts to vital program
Funding is included to renew all current Section 8 vouchers, so no one who has a voucher will lose it.

The President's FY'08 budget request also cut the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) by c
Our bill restores all of these cuts for our nation's most vulnerable citizens. We have funded CDBG at \$

With regard to transportation, our bill fully funds the highway and transit guarantees contained in th
The bill also contains \$3.6 billion for the Airport Improvement Program to continue important infrastruc
The bill also includes additional resources for transportation safety. Specifically, the bill includes an inc

Investments in intercity passenger rail, especially in high density travel corridors, must also be part o
In conclusion, this is a good bill and I ask for the Subcommittee's support in moving our bill to the full co